New York State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Bath.

New York State

Soldiers' and Sailors' Home,

. . . Bath.

PHOTO-GRAVURES.

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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PUBLISHER OF AMERICAN VIEWS,
250 ADAMS ST., BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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SEYMOUR DURST

FORT NEW AMSTERDAM (NEW YORK), 1651.

When you leave, please leave this book
Because it has been said
"Ever'thing comes t' him who waits
Except a loaned book."

AVERY
DURST

THE New York State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home is located one mile and a half northwest of the village of Bath in the beautiful Conhocton Valley, which at this point is about half a mile wide, and nearly surrounded by verdant hills gracefully ascending to a height of several hundred feet.

The Conhocton River skirts along the easterly boundary of the picturesque grounds of the Home, which are artistically laid out in a park transversed with shady boulevards and pleasant walks and generously adorned with fine old trees, choice shrubs, plants and flowers. At night these grounds are brilliantly illuminated by electric lights. The Home farm comprises about 350 acres of fertile upland and furnishes, for the use of the Home, large quantities of vegetables and other farm products. One passes the Commandant's residence to the left, ascends the wooded pathway and lands upon an immense field of potatoes covering the entire crown of the hill and ending apparently where the sky begins. Thrift and order speak out from the nicely terraced rows of plants, also a surmise that the supply may keep pace with a liberal consumption. From this point offer beautiful views north of the Home grounds and south of the village of Bath. The grounds are kept in the most perfect order.

The principal buildings of the Home are five story brick barracks affording accommodations for 1,700 men, a spacious hospital with a capacity for 300 patients and attendants, a handsome building for headquarters, a chapel, an amusement hall, a green-house, boiler and engine-house, bakery, laundry and bath-house, numerous workshops and storehouses. There is also a Home store, a well supplied reading room and a library of 10,000 volumes. All these buildings are warmed by steam and lighted by electricity generated at the Home by its own plant, which furnishes 900 incandescent lights of 16 candle power each for interior of buildings and 12 outside arc lights of 2,000 candle power each.

To the *Grand Army of the Republic* of the State of New York is due the establishment of this home. Under their beneficient auspices it was incorporated in 1876 and $100,000 raised by subscription; then, in 1878, the property with the buildings gratuitously transferred to the State of New York as a home for its disabled veteran soldiers and sailors. The opening took

place on Christmas day, 1878, with admission of 25 veterans, since which time there have been some 8,700 admissions and 1,320 deaths in the Home. Those on the rolls number 1,725, those present 1,450. Their average age is 63 years. The different branches of the service furnished in 1894: Regular army 128, volunteers 5,522, navy 350. Foreign born were 3,200, native born 2,800; those who had trades 3,710, married 1,752, single 4,248. Thereof 4,023 could read and write, and 1,977 could not. During the last five years there has been an increase in these numbers of about 10 per cent.

The pensions are received by the Home cashier and credited to each man, who on every Tuesday can draw $1.50 for spending money. This arrangement compels the men to save, so they can contribute to their families or lay away enough of sustenance for their customary ninety days' furlough. The profits from the "canteen" go into the Contingent fund which now amounts to several thousand dollars.

The new amusement hall in course of erection will be a brick building, one story high, with Indiana lime stone trimmings, 62x128 feet. Seating capacity will be 1,200.

The new Post Exchange building, or canteen, is nearly completed, and will be a two-story frame building, 24x48 feet, with an extension of 10x24 feet.

Entertainments of various nature are given in the amusement hall, which is also the headquarters of the musical band. There are tailor, paint, shoe, barber, machine, tin, blacksmith, carpenter shops and various stores operated by the veterans, so that the whole forms a little city by itself.

In the chapel services are held every Sunday, also when a member is carried to his last rest in the cemetery. Here sleep over 1,200 of the brave men whose last days were made sufferable or comfortable by a staff of devoted physicians and nurses, among them several trained female nurses. The cemetery overlooks the Home and the valley, and has been beautified, through the generous gift of Capt. Samuel Dietz, of New York City, by a tall granite shaft which stands a crowning ornament to this soldiers' eden.

OCTOBER 15TH, 1900.

General View of the Home.

OFFICERS OF N. Y. STATE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME.

HEADQUARTERS.

MAIN DRIVE—NORTH VIEW.

BARRACKS A, B AND C.

Band Stand.

BARRACKS H AND I.

BARRACKS C.

BARRACKS D, E, F,
THE BATTERY.

DINING HALL.

Dining Hall.

INTERIOR—DINING HALL.

NEW AMUSEMENT HALL—SEATING CAPACITY 1200.

BARRACKS G. AND LIBRARY.

HOSPITAL.

NEW POST EXCHANGE OR CANTEEN.

COMMANDANT'S RESIDENCE AND ENTRANCE TO MAIN DRIVE.

SCENE ON THE CONHOCTON.

THE ADJUTANT'S AND SURGEON'S RESIDENCES.

BATH, NEW YORK AND THE CONHOCTON RIVER.

THE HOME SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AND CEMETERY.